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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Johnson et al.

Serial No.: To be assigned

Group Art Unit: To be assigned

Filed: Herewith

Examiner: To be assigned

For: ELECTRONIC SOURCING SYSTEM AND METHOD

Attorney Docket No.: 65123-1117

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Please amend the application as follows prior to examination on the merits:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-78 and add the following new claims 79-121.

79. An electronic sourcing system comprising:
a collection of catalogs of items stored in an electronic format;
a first set of pre-determined criteria associated with said collection of catalogs;
a second set of pre-determined criteria associated with items from each of said catalogs;
a catalog selection protocol, said catalog selection protocol relying on said first set of pre-determined criteria to select less than said entire collection of catalogs; and
a search program, said search program relying on said second set of criteria to select specific items from said catalogs determined from said catalog selection protocol.

80. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 79, wherein catalogs comprising said collection of catalogs are stored in separate databases.

81. An electronic sourcing system as recited in claim 79, wherein said catalogs comprising said collection of catalogs are stored in a single database.